

## AGENDA ITEM #6

### **Consideration of the dedication of LaGrange County Nature Preserve, LaGrange County**

The proposed Nature Preserve is a 72.90-acre forested tract located adjacent to Fish Lake, 4 miles east of LaGrange in LaGrange County. The Nature Preserve is part of a larger 102-acre county-owned property containing Maplewood Nature Center.

The proposed Nature Preserve contains an old second-growth mesic upland forest dominated by beech, maple, oak, and hickory. It is part of the existing county-operated Maplewood Nature Center. Maplewood Nature Center has an active environmental education program which makes frequent use of the adjacent woodland.

In late winter and early spring the Nature Center taps the woodland's mature sugar maple trees and operates a small "sugar bush" for the production of maple syrup and sugar as part of its program. This Nature Preserve's Master Plan makes specific allowance for the traditional use of this renewable resource.

Blue spotted salamander, *Ambystoma laterale*, and Broadwinged Hawk, *Buteo platypterus*, are two species of special concern known to occur at this site.

The acquisition of a portion of this property was a joint effort of ACRES Land Trust and the LaGrange County Department of Parks and Recreation utilizing Indiana Heritage Funds.

The tract is owned by the LaGrange County Board of Parks and Recreation and is under the administration of the LaGrange County Parks and Recreation Department. A portion of the funding for acquisition of this property came from the Indiana Heritage Trust Program.

The Division of Nature Preserves recommends dedication of this site as a State Nature Preserve.

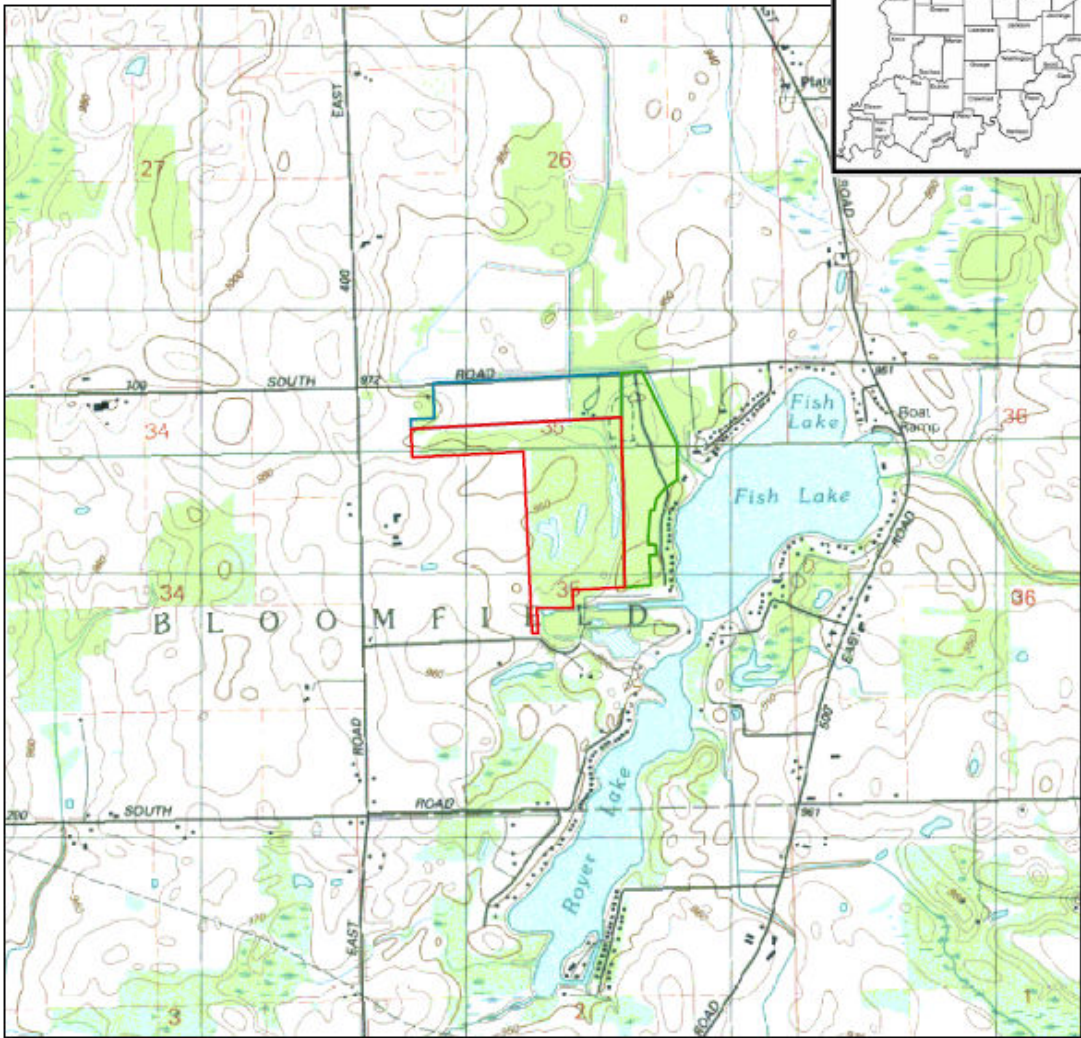
Attached is Nature Preserves Exhibit A: map indicating the location and boundaries of LaGrange County Nature Preserve.




Nature Preserve Exhibit A

LaGrange County Nature Preserve

LaGrange County  
Size: 72.90 acres

USGS Map: Mongo and Wolcottville 7.5' Quads  
Ownership: LaGrange County  
Board of Parks and Recreation



-  LAGRANGE COUNTY NATURE PRESERVE
-  MAPLEWOOD NATURE CENTER
-  ACRES MAPLEWOOD PRESERVE

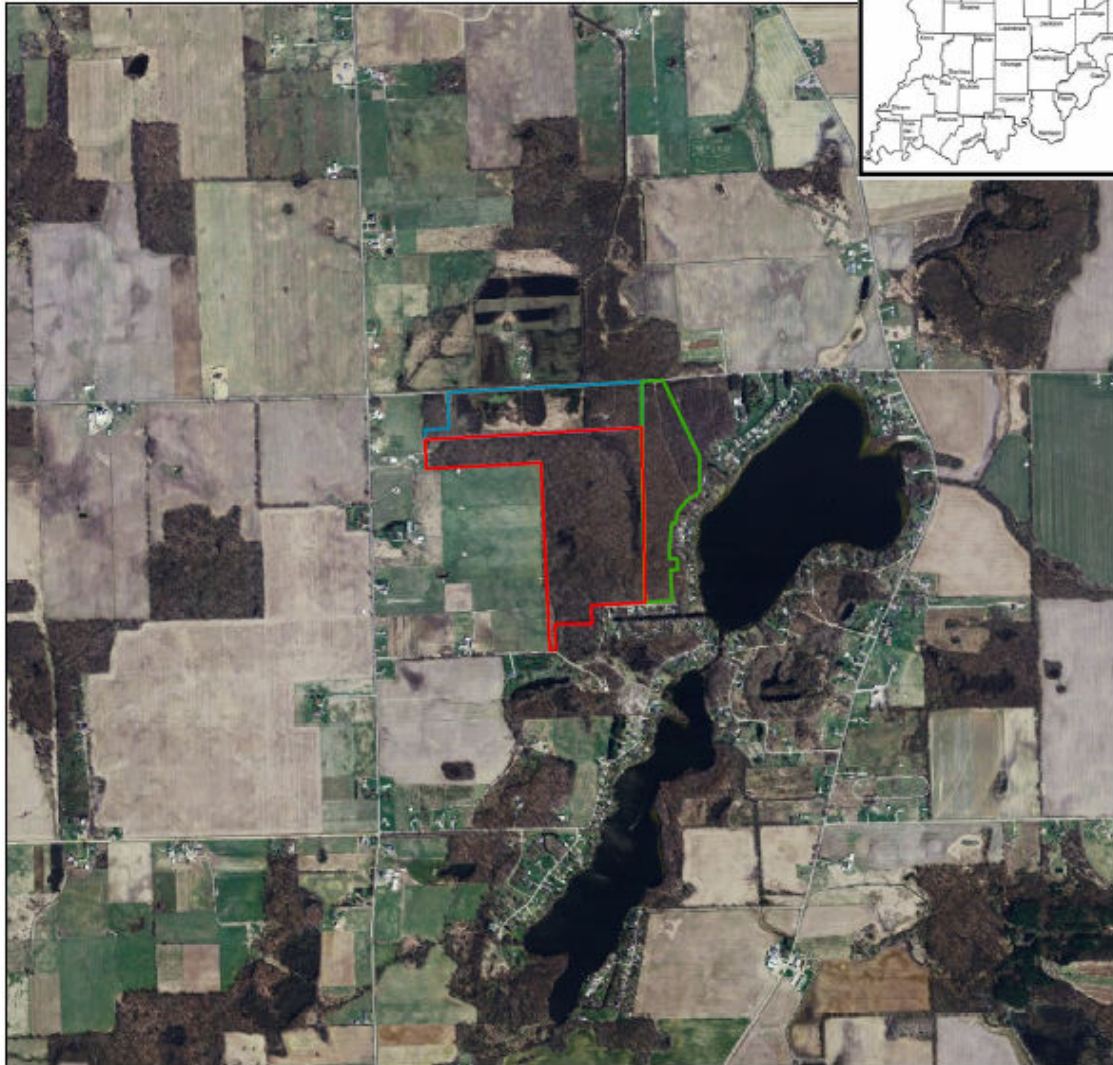
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### Nature Preserve Exhibit A

#### LaGrange County Nature Preserve

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